

Eligibility

The Poet Laureate must be over 21 years of age and a resident of Santa Fe County for at least two years, or have been employed in Santa Fe County for at least two years with a deep involvement in and commitment to the community. The Poet Laureate must be capable of fulfilling duties and public appearances according to their contract.

Term of Service

The Poet Laureate will serve two years based on the calendar year.

Honorarium

The Poet Laureate position will receive \$2,000/year for ceremonial appearances and up to \$3,000/year for the education project, dependent on the complexity and time required to complete the project.

Criteria

Selection of the Poet Laureate will be based on the following points:

- Quality of poetry, Language and oral facility,
- Suitability of the work for civic celebration,
- Recognition evidenced through publications, grants, fellowships, academic and/or non academic awards,
- Engagement in past projects that involve poetry and other experiences related to the tradition of poetry.

Description of Position

Ceremonial Role of Poet Laureate

As the Public Voice of our city, the Poet Laureate will make four appearances per year at city sponsored events as determined by the Arts Commission. These might include:

- Mayor's Arts Award Dinner
- Mayoral Inauguration City
- Councilors Swearing-In
- Community Days
- Public Building and Public Art Dedications

Poems presented at these events are encouraged to be original and appropriate to the occasion, but if not possible, appropriate past work is acceptable.

Education Role of Poet Laureate

A special project proposed by the poet should:

- Nourish the poet's own personal growth and interests,
- Involve an educational outreach initiative for the community, and
- Reflect a schedule that is realistic for the poet.

Ideas for this project might include, but are not limited to:

- Curate a series of poetry readings with a unique focus
- Give public readings in unique venues
- Give workshops on and at unique sites-nature trails, monuments, the Plaza etc.
- Work with Artworks, the Arts Commission's arts education program.

Program Objectives

Enhance the literary arts presence in Santa Fe.

Create a focal point for the expression of Santa Fe's culture through the literary arts.

Contribute to the continued growth of the individual Poet Laureate.

Raise awareness of the power of poetry and the spoken word.

Provide a forum for cross pollination of art forms.

Celebrate the spirit of the people and the special qualities of our city.

Create a unique program that will become a model for other cities.

Create, over a period of time, a body of work that commemorates the life of our city.

Application Process

The poet should be nominated by a community member. The application packet must include:

- 1) Poet's name, address, phone number.
- 2) Copy of the poet's resume.
- 3) Three to five poems by the poet. If the poet writes in a language other than English, the original poetry and an English translation should be submitted.
- 4) Short, up to five minutes, oral/video presentation using tape, VHS or CD.
- 5) A nomination letter stating the poet's special qualifications and why they should be considered. Nominator's name, address, phone number and e-mail should be included.
- 6) Letter of interest from poet.

All application packets should be mailed or delivered in person to:

Arts Commission Office
Poet Laureate Application
P. O. Box 909
120 S. Federal Place, Room 326

The Arts Commission is not responsible for contents of the packets and the packets will not be returned.

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY
OCTOBER 28, 2005
IMPORTANT DATES:

October 28, 2005—Applications due
November 29, 2005—Finalists notified
January 9, 2005 — Finalists' education project proposal due
January 20, 2006—Poet Laureate notified of selection
March 13, 2006—First Poet Laureate presentation

Arts Commission

The City of Santa Fe Arts Commission is an agency within the municipal government of the city of Santa Fe. The Arts Commission provides leadership for the city in supporting arts and cultural affairs. In this role, the Arts Commission recommends programs and policies that promote artistic excellence in the community. Through its work, the Arts Commission nurtures and supports Santa Fe's unique artistic and cultural heritage.

Poet Laureate Endowment

An endowment has been established at the Santa Fe Community Foundation for the continuation of the Poet Laureate Program. If you would like to contribute to the endowment, please send contributions to:

Poet Laureate Program
Santa Fe Community
Foundation
P. O. Box 1827
Santa Fe, NM 87504-1827
Or through their web site:
www.santafecf.org

The Arts Commission would like to thank First National Bank of Santa Fe and the Witter Bynner Foundation for Poetry for providing funds for the 2006 Poet Laureate Program.

THE CITY OF
SANTA FE
ARTS
COMMISSION

City of Santa Fe
Arts Commission
P. O. Box 909
Santa Fe, NM 87504-0909
505-955-6707
505-955-6671 (fax)
artscommission@santafenm.gov
www.santafenm.gov

INTRODUCING

The Poet Laureate Program

for the
City of Santa Fe,
New Mexico



The Poet Laureate program of the Santa Fe Arts Commission has been established to promote a meaningful poetic presence as part of the diverse cultural fabric of our city. This is an honorary position given to a person who has established a presence in the world of poetry, demonstrated commitment and passion for poetry, and embraces the opportunity to engage in civic discourse.